

ABSTRACT

An electrical wire or cable having insulation comprising

(i) at least a first layer of a polyolefin-based formulation, of which at least 20%, preferably at least 40%, more preferably at least 60% or very preferably at least 80% of the weight of the polymeric portion of the said formulation consists of a carbonyl-containing polymer (homopolymer or copolymer or terpolymer), of which polymer the or at least one constituent monomer is a carboxylic acid ester, preferably an acrylate or acetate, especially an alkyl acrylate (preferably methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate or butyl acrylate), the said monomer itself constituting at least 5%, preferably at least 9%, more preferably at least 15% by weight of the said co-, or ter- polymer when used, and the remainder or the majority of the remainder of the said co-, or ter- polymer preferably being derived from olefinic monomer, preferably ethylene;

in contact with

(ii) at least a second layer of another material formulation, containing at least 10%, more preferably at least 50%, very preferably at least 90%, especially 100%, by weight of the second layer, of polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), or especially preferably a copolymer based on VDF with a partially or fully fluorinated co-monomer, most preferably a copolymer of VDF and hexafluoropropylene (HFP);

wherein the said layers (i) and (ii) whilst in contact with each other have been subjected to cross-linking reaction, preferably by radiation, more preferably ionising radiation, sufficient to prevent delamination of the two layers during a 1 hour acetone immersion test at 23°C, or to increase the peel bond strength between the said layers to at least 5N according to the ASTM B1876-95 method described below preferably increasing the bond strength by at least 50%, more preferably by at least 100%, especially by at least 500% or 1000%, compared to that between the uncrosslinked layers.